

# FEDERATION NEWS SHEET

*Monthly Bulletin of the World's Student Christian Federation*

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## *Note to Editors of National Student Christian Movement Periodicals:*

This information service is especially prepared for National S. C. M. publications. Please make use of it for the education of our membership in Federation matters. Credit notices are not required.

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### **A well-deserved Honour**

The honorary degree of Doctor of Theology has been conferred by the Theological Faculty of the University of Kiel upon Dr. Reinold von Thadden-Trieglaff, who at present represents the Evangelical Church of Germany at the headquarters of the World Council of Churches in Geneva.

In an unofficial letter, Prof. D. Heinrich Rendtorff, formerly Dean of the Faculty, and now Rector of the University, emphasizes that this honour, which is very seldom bestowed today upon a non-theologian, has been granted to a man who, as lay theologian, during two decades, devoted his life to the service of the German S.C.M., to the propagation of the Gospel among the cultured classes of our day, and to the service and struggle of the confessing Church. By reason of his activities Dr. von Thadden suffered many difficulties and persecutions, but he also earned the love and trust of the Christians of Germany. They admire in him the lay leader of the Church as well as the Christian thinker, one who, at a time when the reality of the life of modern man is separated from the reality of faith in the Kingdom of God, knew how to take a firm stand in both worlds, and thus show the younger generation the way to shoulder its present responsibilities "in the peace of God".

### **South Africa**

*The General Secretary, Fred Liebenberg, writes:*

You will be pleased to hear that we have been having great camps during the past vacation. The Transvaal section of the S.C.A. held a boys' camp on the South coast of Natal and had no less than 560 boys and teachers in that camp. The camp itself was a great success. And not only has this camp attracted so many boys. Practically all our camps have been attended by more campers than in previous years. We are most grateful for this growth in our camp work since we feel that our camps are our most fruitful and blessed sphere of labour.

We are building a camp hut on Bainskloof to house about one hundred students. At the same time we are erecting 18 roundhuts at Maselspoort, a pleasure resort near Bloemfontein, for our Free State camps. At Kleinmond we are going to extend our camp house and at Mosselbay we have erected a camp hut. The fourth floor of our headquarters building at Stellenbosch is completed and it has been a job to fill the rooms from a waiting list of more than 200 students! We now have 64 students living in our building.

### **Chile**

*Raymond Valenzuela writes:*

We had our fourth annual camp the first week in February, which has become our traditional date, and it was our best camp to date both in numbers and in the quality of the students attending. There were thirty students, and a more mature group than we have ever had before. We based our Bible study on the Sermon on the Mount, which served as an excellent foundation for our general theme, Foundation for Reconstruction. We continued the tradition of having the students themselves present most of the themes, and these were better presented than ever before. I am sure students saw the relevance of the Gospel as never before. Sr. Aracena, Presbyterian Pastor in Concepción did a splendid job in presenting the morning devotionals, and Dr. Irvén Paul, Presbyterian missionary in the Union Seminary in Buenos Aires gave us excellent help in the Bible study as well as in the general discussions. Once again we experienced the magnificent spirit which has become traditional in our camps and I feel sure the students themselves will see to it that this high standard is maintained.

The high points of the camp undoubtedly was our memorial service for Luis Mathieu, whom you will remember from your visit in Temuco. Luis, after his year of study in the States was working as an engineer in the installation of a great hydro-electric power project near Santiago when he was stricken with paratyphus fever. He was recovering, however, and died from a negative reaction to a blood transfusion ordered with the hope of speeding the recovery. Last year we had elected him President of the National Committee of our S.C.M., a post in which he was serving at the time of his death. Luis was a Christian in the deepest sense of the word and his death has produced a great impression on all who knew him.

The Santiago group has got off to a fine start this year. The newly elected president of the group is a graduate of the Law School of the University of Chile, about to receive his title. From a Catholic background, he had given up all religion until he came to our camp in the summer of 1947. He credits the Movement for his "conversion", and we have no more enthusiastic worker now than he. He is doing a splendid job of leading the Santiago group. Our Concepción group has also got off to a better start, being helped by some new evangelical students in the university. The new Valparaíso group is feeling the loss of its most enthusiastic member, who has gone to study for the ministry in Buenos Aires. This boy, a Presbyterian, wrote me after attending our summer camp that it was his camp experience which had decided him to enter the ministry. I think that the



Valparaiso group will pick up after the election of the new Committee. Altogether I feel satisfied that the groups are on their way and will be increasing in effectiveness.

We celebrated our third annual congress the 21st and 22nd of May in Santiago with delegates from all three groups. This time our theme was "The Christian's Political Responsibility" (you will remember the intense interest in politics among Chilean students). I was proud of our students, who did a splendid job of presenting the themes. What was most gratifying was the evidence of maturity in the Movement — not as a coterie of evangelicals, but as a truly ecumenical group. To be sure, we have a long, long way to go, but I feel that we must truly thank God that we have come this far. At the annual meeting a new national committee was elected. This committee met on the 25th of May.

### Siam

*Notes sent by Winburn Thomas :*

The S.C.M. in Thailand plans to extend operations, beginning with the new term of school in June, says National Secretary Chaiyo Kattapongse, who is visiting in Shanghai as playing manager of a Siam hockey team. "We plan to extend our operations into the mission schools in Bangkok and into the educational institutions of the North such as in Chiangmai", he said.

With the ending of the war, little was left of the S.C.M. in Thailand. During his one year as student Y.M.C.A. secretary, an S.C.M. has been organized in Bangkok, with 32 Christian men and women students from Chulalongkorn University and the universities of Law and Medicine. At present these members are being trained under the leadership of Mr. Kattapongse and Y.M.C.A. Secretary Floyd A. Wilson to undertake a Christian programme among their fellow students in the universities. The Y.M.C.A. has no separate student programme as yet in Thailand.

While country was affected by the war, the poverty of the people is hardly to be compared with that of the Chinese or many of the peoples of Europe, he stated. Among the casualties of the war in Thailand was the National Christian Council. It has not yet been revived. There is therefore no national Christian youth programme. However, Protestant churches in the southern part of the country, in such cities as Nakornsrithamaraj have initiated youth groups which include Christian students.

### India

*From a letter from M. M. Thomas :*

I forgot to tell you about the Kerala S.C.M. Study Conference held from May 10th to 17th, where I took the place of C.S. Paul. It was a very good Study Conference with all emphasis on study and worship. Of course the lead for all these study conferences came from Tambaram when Malcolm was chairman. There were about thirty delegates from different unions in Kerala. Some of them were brilliant students and had attended study conferences before. They did 5 to 6 hours of reading, writing and seminar every day. There were four commissions of about 7 each dealing with Evangelism and the Bible for juniors, and Politics and the University for seniors. We were only two leaders instead of four — C.S. Paul and Devanesan not being able to come. So we two, Samartha and I, had to lead two commissions each and it was hard work for us. I was very much impressed with the seriousness of the students and I found that they did a good deal of work.

This is the first time that I led a group of serious students on the theme of the University. We had the best of the senior students and postgraduate students in this commission; and some of them are next year going to be lecturers in government and Christian colleges. I found that the Grey Book was a good basic text book for students. Excepting of course the portion that deals with logical and illogical axioms etc. which we left out completely as the students felt unable to understand anything. Besides this we had the help of a few copies of the Westminster outline on the University and they had other books and pamphlets to work extra. All of them did very good work writing essays on all the main headings; and they said they were very keen to follow it up in the coming year in the different unions; and the plans are laid for one or two groups of junior lecturers and senior students on the theme. It is a theme that can fire young people with enthusiasm provided they are intelligent. That is quite a good discovery for me in my personal experience. Of course we had with us Chandran Devanesan's typewritten outline on the same theme bringing out the relevance of the whole discussion to the Asian universities and I hope it will be a help to the S.C.Ms who want to study and discuss the theme. I led politics also and the main theme was on the meaning of "Democracy of the Person" as contrasted with the other definitions of democracy current in the world. And we studied the Asian Conference pamphlet "Charity, Justice and Power" in the light of this study. For evangelism, they followed the pamphlet "Proclaiming Christ", especially the basic study on what is the Gospel. And the junior students found the commission on the Bible most profitable. So many students found real help. They also did good work of solid reading and writing. Besides this commission on the Bible there was a series by Mr. Samartha of Bible studies in the morning which formed the basis of all the conference.

### Russian Student Christian Movement outside Russia

The annual conference of the Russian Student Christian Movement was a real blessing of God and reminded us of the earliest ages of our existence. It was a little bit short (three days of Whitsuntide vacations) and this was the reason why the programme was overburdened! In three days we had six lectures, six meetings of three study circles, six general meetings and several private meetings. Every day began with a Eucharistical celebration and ended with the Vesper. The participants were 150 in number; they came from Paris, Lyon, Lille, St Etienne, Le Creusot, Montbéliard and Calvados. Amongst them were seven priests — all, except Rev. Zenkovsky, former pupils of the Theological Institute. The conference was honoured by the presence of Metropolitan Vladimir and Bishop Cassian who celebrated and took an active part in the work of the conference. We had the pleasure to have amongst our guests: Miss J. Fraser (from the Youth Department of the World Council of Churches), Dom C. Lialine OSB, l'abbé A. Heitz, the Rev. P. Mailloux S.J. and M<sup>lle</sup> Julien. The place of this gathering was "La Roche-Dieu" which is known and loved by the whole Federation.

The general subject of the conference was the sentence of Tertullian: *Fiunt Christiani non nascuntur*. This dynamic truth was experienced in a series of papers which showed what the real life of the Church should be. The peculiarity of this conference was that all these papers, except one, were read by younger leaders. This is why they were much more understood as pro-



blems arising than as their solutions. The element of "togetherness" in finding answers was stressed more than ever. The problems of spiritual life were discussed in a spirit of liberty, radicalism and faithfulness to the Church. The last lecture of the Rev. Zenkovsky (on Prayer) was the mature fruit of a long pastoral life and provoked not a discussion but a sincere and respectful agreement.

The conference showed the result of the work of the whole year, projected new plans and gave new enthusiasm for the future.

## Indonesia

*Letter from Johannes L. Ch. Abineno :*

On the 17th of April we arrived here with the "Karossa". We were met by our parents, friends and acquaintances, who had been waiting for such an occasion a long time. The "Oslo Committee" had also sent its representatives in the persons of Miss Tine Fransz, Dutje Tamaëla, Dr. Siregar and Mr. Engelen. We were very much pleased indeed, though we knew that they did not forget us, but in connection with the present situation we did not expect that their interest in our arriving should be so obvious.

On the 24th of April we were welcomed officially by the "Oslo Committee" and at that time there were more than 150 persons present. After welcoming us, the chairman Dr. Siregar asked us to deliver a speech about our experiences in Europe. Rompas spoke about Oslo, Tan about Edinburgh and I about the Ecumenical Institute in Céligny. The Oslo film that we had brought with us was also shown that evening. The audience was very glad to see it...

The situation of the Indonesian S.C.M. at the present time is the following :

1. *P.M.K.I.* (S.C.M. for Indonesian-speaking students). Most of the *P.M.K.I.* members are now living in the interior of Java. Those who are still living here in Djakarta, except that they are following the colleges of some Republican professors at home — due to the Dutch occupation of all Republican schoolbuildings — must earn their living so that their studies get hindered and thwarted. This influences also much our movement. Through lack of time they are unable to come often to our meetings. But the managing-board which forms the core of the movement with other members still often come together in order to do anything within our power to seek ways to receive our movement again. Will you therefore please remember us in your prayers ?

*P.M.K.I.* Djoja is far better. They can move freely and work actively and their work is blessed so richly in getting also many new members. So is also the case with Solo. We do not hear anything about Malang, as this city is also occupied by the Dutch.

2. *C.S.V.* (S.C.M. for Dutch-speaking students). As to the *C.S.V.* Djakarta it may rejoice in an increasing membership of 120, 90 of which are Chinese and the remnant Indonesian (East Indonesia) and Dutch. Not only in Djakarta but also in Bandoeng and Somabaya has the *C.S.V.* branches. Also these two latter have a good future.

Both *P.M.K.I.* and *C.S.V.* Djakarta are now busy forming a debating group for discussing together problems which may be talked about in Ceylon. But up to the present time I cannot say anything about the results of this discussion.

## Brazil

*From a letter of Jorge Cesar Mota :*

Yesterday we had the first public meeting of the A.C.A. It was undoubtedly a great night! Prof. Flaminio Fávero, of the Faculty of Medicine, gave a lecture on "Jesus Christ and the scientist". There were present many professors and students of all the departments of the University. Dr. Fávero is known in all Latin America as one of the most important professors of Legal Medicine in the world. He is called by his alumni "the Protestant" or "the Bible". Last night, the auditorium of the Public Library was crowded. When I offered the opportunity of questions to the lecturer, many students, journalists, physicians and others, many of them Catholics or spiritualists, theosophists or communists, raised not only questions but objections, which made the meeting all the more interesting for everybody. There are many people interested now in the A.C.A. The next lecture will be on "The philosopher Pascal".

## Australia

*From David Garnsey :*

A minor revolution in Bible study method has taken place in the Australian S.C.M. For some years university study circles have depended on clergy and senior friends of the Movement to lead them. With the large increase in the number of circles needed as a result of swollen university enrollments, it was becoming increasingly difficult to find a sufficient number of people to act as leaders.

At the A.S.C.M. Officers' Conference in January, 1948, student leaders used the study on Philippians prepared by Marie-Jeanne de Haller for Lundsberg. They took turns in leading their circles, having been coached the night before by a travelling secretary.

The results were quite unexpected. In practically all the nine university centres in Australia, direct Bible study is the heart of the Movement's work this year, and practically all the circles are led by students. The members of the circles feel that they are freer to raise their real problems among themselves than if a senior leader were present. They have a sense of "studying together" and not being spoon-fed by an authority. When difficulties arise with which no one in the group can deal, it spurs them on to independent investigation, or the leaders report the difficulty to their own preparatory circle, whose leader is competent to help them.

## River Plate

Common sense counsels, and experience, have demonstrated that it is not convenient to precipitate the foundation of S.C.M. groups and that it is necessary to explore previously the possibilities of the field and to follow the exploration by preparatory steps. The executive secretary of the River Plate S.C.M. had planned some time ago to visit some Argentina cities in order to explore those possibilities. Several factors prevented until recently the realization of this purpose, but finally he was able to visit Santa Fe, Paraná and Córdoba. He had several meetings with Christian leaders and with students and established different contacts. In every town some persons became interested and the contacts by letter that followed continue at present the personal ones. A second visit, this year, would seem to be profitable. The River Plate S.C.M. plans to celebrate its second congress as soon as possible and it is expected that some students from the towns in which there are no S.C.M. groups will attend the meeting.



## WORLD STUDENT RELIEF

### Swedish S.C.M. help to Germany

Karin Moberger writes :

The aid is given along this line : students help students. We have only asked other people very little for help. The collection is made in the name of Student Christian Movements and by their members, but among all students of the universities.

In Germany the goods are distributed by *Studentengemeinde* (Evangelical student community) but also to students who are not members. They are selected mostly by the university teachers and the Aid Committee, and specially among the refugee students from the Eastern Zone.

It has been our aim, not only to give material aid, but also some sort of mission and we are happy to have heard from Hamburg that by the distribution the student pastor has come in contact with many new students and has had the possibility of spiritual guidance. The goods sent to Bonn this spring are only just arrived, and we have as yet not heard much from there.

### Iranian Students give to W.S.R.

The World Student Service Fund in New York has just received a cheque for ten dollars from the *Iranian Students' Association* in Teheran. The cheque was forwarded through the American Mission, where this group meets for recreational and social activities and discussions. It is the first contribution to W.S.R. from Iran, and as such has a significance far beyond the amount of money involved.

### Medical Equipment arrives in Yugoslavia

The following letter was received from the National Student Organisation of Yugoslavia :

Belgrade, May 24th, 1948.

"Dear Friends,

"On February 16th, 1948, we received medical supplies, and from your last shipment sent March 18th through the Yugoslav Embassy in Paris, we received on April 7th one apparatus for pneumoscopy with a 220-volt transformer.

"On behalf of Popular Student Youth, we wish to express to you our gratitude for your help in the reconstruction of our universities.

"We take this opportunity to inform you of the way in which we are distributing your material. The distribution is carried out in consultation with the Medical section of the Popular Student Youth, the representatives of the university authorities and the professors. The material is divided among the medical faculties of Belgrade, Zagreb, Ljubljana and Sarajevo, and is used in the laboratories and for the practical work of the students; the apparatus is used in the university laboratories..."

## THE SEASON OF STUDENT TRAVEL

In the next three months thousands of students will be visiting other countries. The Federation conferences will have delegates from all over the world, and many national conferences will have foreign visitors. Many students will arrive in other countries for a winter's study as overseas guests. This presents with us a great opportunity of deepening and strengthening our fellowship in Christ.

"For I intend to be with you shortly. I hope possibly to winter with you, at any rate, if the Lord permit, to be with you for a considerable time, not merely to

O God the Father of all mankind, we would remember before thee the men and women who come from many lands to our conferences or to study in our universities. Guide and protect them in the difficulties and temptations which beset them in travel, or in new surroundings. Keep alive in their hearts the love of all that is good in their home life, and give them also insight to appre-

### Germany

I

The following letter has just been received from a former German prisoner of war, to whom W.S.R. sent books two years ago. Such letters are still coming in, showing the reserve of good will built up by W.S.R. in its war-time and post-war work on behalf of prisoners of war.

Stuttgart

"Two years ago, when I was in the hospital for prisoners of war at Baccarat in France, I received two valuable books from you. Unfortunately, I was then unable to thank you, as I was seriously ill.

"In the meantime I have returned home, and have spent a year in a German hospital. I shall never wholly regain my health, undermined by undernourishment and imprisonment, and I shall probably have to give up my plan of continuing my studies in Germany, but all the more do I remember most warmly your splendid support.

"I am not coming to you now with any request. I simply want to thank you with all my heart, and to assure you that your organisation does more for understanding among nations and democracy than the best speeches of statesmen..."

"With all best wishes to you and your organisation..."

II

3849 students of the Technical High School (university grade) in Munich, Germany, recently filled out questionnaires on their financial situation and living conditions, and the answers tabulated in percentage form, shed considerable light on the difficulties of German students today. Here are some of the questions :

1. Do you receive any supplementary rations ?  
Only 544, or 14 %, do.
2. Can your room be heated ?  
32 % replied in the negative.
3. Do you live with your parents ?  
68 % must fend for themselves.
4. In comparison with your fellow-students, do you consider yourself particularly needy ?  
22 % answered yes.

From a series of questions on the financial situation of students, it appears that only 32 % of the students are reasonably sure of being able to continue their studies. 60 % are helped by their parents or relatives. 44 % are living on their savings. 14 % have regular jobs in addition to their studies. 12.5 % are married, and 6 % have at least one child. 18 % are refugees. 16 % are war-wounded, 28 % had their homes destroyed or damaged by bombing.

visit you, en route for somewhere else. And I hope that some of you will accompany me when I leave. I shall come by Macedonia. At present I remain at Ephesus until Pentecost. The door is open here, wide open, and much work is being done, but the opposition is great. If Timothy comes to you, let him not feel that he is unwelcome, be generous and hospitable, for it is the Lord's work that both he and I together pursue; and send him again to me with your kind thoughts, for I need him here... Remember such workers as these." (I Cor. 16, trans. Gerald Warre Cornish).

### Prayer

ciate and share that which is good in ours. Pardon the faults of temper and meanness by which we so often offend one another; and grant unto us all true humility, love and patience that we may welcome one another in the spirit of the Master whom we desire to serve.

Amen.